

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN OSLO
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 13069

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, LB
SUBJ: GISCARD STATEMENT ABOUT SENDING FRENCH TROOPS TO LEBANON

1. AMBASSADOR EILTS SHOULD SEE FAHMY, AND AMBASSADOR PORTER SHOULD SEE SAUD OR OTHER APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SAUDI GOVT TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS ABOUT PRESIDENT GISCARD STATEMENT IN NEW ORLEANS THAT FRENCH IS PREPARED TO SEND FRENCH PEACE KEEPING FORCES TO LEBANON AND THAT THE US WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE:

A. THIS FRENCH IDEA WAS NOT PUT TO US AS A FORMAL PROPOSAL BUT SIMPLY AS SOMETHING TO WHICH THE FRENCH WERE GIVING THOUGHT. IN DESCRIBING IT TO US, THEY SAID THEY WOULD ONLY SEND IN FRENCH PEACE KEEPING FORCES IF REQUESTED BY THE NEW SARKIS GOVT, IF IT WOULD NOT LEAD TO OTHER OUTSIDE FORCES BEING SENT IN, AND IF, WHEN FRENCH FORCES LEFT, ALL OTHER OUTSIDE FORCES WOULD ALSO LEAVE.

B. WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY OFFICIAL POSITION ON THIS FRENCH IDEA, NOR WOULD WE DO SO WITHOUT CONSULTING OUR EGYPTIAN, SAUDI AND OTHER INTERESTED FRIENDS IN THE AREA. WE MADE THIS CLEAR TO THE FRENCH. WE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT IF THE FRENCH INTEND TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS IDEA, WE WOULD WANT TO
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CONSULT OTHER CONCERNED STATES IN THE AREA BEFORE TAKING

AN OFFICIAL POSITION. WE LAID A SPECIAL STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS THE FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD INSIST ON - NAMELY, THEY HAVE A REQUEST FROM THE NEW LEBANESE GOVT, THAT THE ENTRY OF ANY FRENCH FORCES WILL BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR ESCALATING OUTSIDE INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE FORCES, AND THAT ALL OF THE OUTSIDE FORCES SHOULD DEPART LEBANON WHEN THE FRENCH FORCES LEFT.

C. IT WAS WITHIN THE FOREGOING CONTEXT THAT WE INDICATED TO THE FRENCH THAT THE IDEA OF THEIR SENDING A PEACE KEEPING FORCE TO LEBANON, MIGHT BE USEFUL, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE OF OTHER CONCERNED STATES IN THE AREA.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THIS FRENCH IDEA.

3. WE ARE SENDING YOU BY SEPTTEL THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE ARE FOLLOWING IF QUERIED ABOUT THE GISCARD STATEMENT, WHICH YOU SHOULD CALL TO FAHMY'S AND SAUDI'S ATTENTION.

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